REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending, with claims 1, 9, 14, 16, and 19 being independent.

Claims 1-6, 9-12, and 14-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wical (5,940,821) in view of Russell-Falla et al. (6,266,664). This response first addresses the § 103(a) rejection of claims 1-6 and 16-18, then the rejection of claims 9-12 and 19-21, and finally the rejection of claims 14 and 15.

Claims 1-6 and 16-18

Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 16 to obviate the rejection of these claims. As amended, claims 1 and 16 recite a method (claim 1) and a computer program (claim 16) for searching different data stores based on a classification of a search term that includes, inter alia, receiving at least one search term and classifying the search term among at least first and second categories. The classification of the search term is used to select among multiple electronic information stores to perform a search, where a first electronic information store contains first electronic information associated with at least a first category and a second electronic information store contains second electronic information associated with at least a second category. When the search term is classified within the first category, a search is performed after classifying the search term by comparing the search term only to the first electronic information with the first electronic information store to determine whether matches exist. When the search term is classified within the second category and following the classification of the search term, a search is performed by comparing the search term to at least the second electronic information within the second electronic information store that differs from the first electronic information store to determine whether matches exist. A result is displayed based on the matches that are determined to exist.

Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections because Wical and Russell-Falla, either alone or in combination, fail to describe or suggest a method/program for performing a search, as generally required by these amended claims. More specifically, Wical and Russell-Falla also fail to disclose particular features of the search recited by the amended

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claims including <u>using the classification of the search term to select among multiple electronic information stores to perform a search</u>. Further, Wical and Russell-Falla also fail to disclose a first electronic information store that contains first electronic information associated with a first category and a second electronic information store that contains second electronic information associated with at least a second category.

Wical discloses a search and retrieval system that uses a document theme vector to identify the content of documents through themes as well as through classification of the documents in categories that reflect what the documents are primarily about. Wical, col. 5, line 61 to col. 6, line 10. Wical does not disclose multiple electronic information stores in which to perform a search, and notably, Wical does not classify the search term to select among multiple electronic information stores to perform a search. In fact, Wical does not classify search terms received from a user at all. Instead, Wical takes the search terms received from the user and identifies terminology related to those query terms using a knowledge base. A knowledge base is used to identify terminology that has a lexical, semantic, or usage association with the query terms. Wical then takes the query and the terms related to the query and performs a search to identify topics and documents within those topics that are related to the query and the terms related to the query. <u>Wical classifies documents by a theme, but does not classify the search terms received from a user to select among several multiple electronic information stores to perform the search,</u> as recited in amended claims 1 and 16. Wical, col. 9, line 60 to col. 10, line 30.

Furthermore, Wical's search and retrieval system does not describe associating electronic information in an electronic information store with a particular category and comparing the search term <u>only</u> to electronic information within a particular electronic information store following the classification of the search term, as recited in amended claims 1 and 16.

Russell-Falla is generally similar to Wical in that it also fails to disclose or suggest aspects of performing the search. More specifically, Russell-Falla also fails to disclose or suggest classifying the search term among at least first and second categories and using the classification of the search term to select among multiple electronic information stores to

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perform a search. Further, Russell-Falla also fails to disclose or suggest a first electronic information store that contains first electronic information associated with the first category and a second electronic information store that contains second electronic information associated with at least a second category. Thus, Russell-Falla fails to remedy the Wical shortcomings, and the combination therefore fails to render amended claims 1 and 16 obvious.

Instead, Russell-Falla discloses how to determine whether to display a requested web page to the user of a browser. When a user requests a web page using a browser, Russell-Falla describes receiving the web page at a proxy server upstream of the web browser where the requested web page is analyzed before it is displayed on the user's display screen. The web page is analyzed at the proxy server by scanning the page to identify the natural language textual portions of the page. Then, those scanned natural language textual portions from the web page are compared against a pre-existing database to determine whether or not the scanned expression appears in the database. If certain expressions are contained in the web page, such as pornography, then the web page will not be displayed to the user. Russell-Falla, col. 4, line 61 to col. 5, line 16. Thus, Russell-Falla has nothing to do with classifying search terms and using the classification of the search term that is entered by the user to select among multiple electronic data stores to perform the search. Instead, Russell-Falla analyzes web pages for specific content, such as pornography, that has been requested by the user. Russell-Falla has nothing to do with the search terms and a classification of those search terms to determine where to perform the search, as recited in amended claims 1 and 16. Russell-Falla is not comparing received search terms and performing a search of those search terms.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection of claims 1 and 16, and their dependent claims 2-6, 17, and 18.

Claims 9-12 and 19-21

Applicants also have amended independent claims 9 and 19 to obviate the rejections applied to these claims. As amended, claims 9 and 19 recite a method (claim 9) and a computer program (claim 19) for storing searchable and retrievable content into more than one distinct

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electronic information store that includes, inter alia, receiving searchable and retrievable content to be stored within more than one distinct electronic information store and scanning the searchable and retrievable content in response to the searchable and retrievable content being accessed a threshold number of times.

Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections because both Wical and Russell-Falla, either alone or in combination, fail to describe or suggest scanning the searchable and retrievable content in response to the searchable and retrievable content being accessed a threshold number of times.

For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection of claims 9-12 and 19-21.

Claims 14 and 15

Applicants have amended independent claim 14 to obviate the rejection. As amended, claim 14 recites a system for storing searchable and retrievable content among more than one distinct electronic information store that includes, inter alia, a first electronic information store and a second electronic information store that are populated by searchable and retrievable content that has been automatically scanned when a detected number of accesses of the content has met a threshold number of accessess.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because both Wical and Russell-Falla, either alone or in combination, fail to describe or suggest populating a first electronic information store and a second electronic information store by scanning searchable and retrievable content that has been scanned in response to being accessed a threshold number of times.

For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection of claim 14 and claim 15 dependent therefrom.

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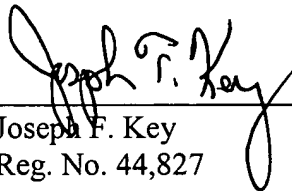Page : 12 of 12

Claims 7, 8, and 13

Claims 7, 8, and 13, which depend from independent claims 1 and 9, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wical in view of Russell-Falla and in further view of Belfiore et al. (6,038,610). For at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 9, Wical and Russell-Falla fail to describe or suggest the features of claims 1 and 9. Belfiore fails to remedy the Wical and Russell-Falla shortcomings. Thus, the combination of Wical, Russell-Falla, and Belfiore fails to describe or suggest the claims 1 and 9 features, or the features of claims 7, 8, and 13 dependent therefrom. Moreover, in view of the respective dependence upon claims 1 and 9, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection of claims 7, 8, and 13.

Enclosed is a $950.00 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. During the pendency of this application, please apply any deficiencies or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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